reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the quantum of the newsprint proposed to be exported to India by Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The Trade Protocol signed between Government of India and the Government of Russian Federation on 22nd February, 1992 provides for import of 20,000 tonnes of newsprint from Russia against supply of Indian goods. Besides the Protocol permits transactions by way of counter-trade barter, payments in freely convertible currency or any other internationally recognised form of business cooperation.

[*Translation*]

Sick Small Scale Industries

3717. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small scale industries in the country and the number of sick industries out of them; and

(b) the total amount involved in these sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of March, 1990 (the latest date for which such information has been complied) out of a total number of 27,91,358 borrowing units in the Small Scale Sector enjoying bank credit, 2,18,828 units were identified by banks as sick with outstanding bank credit of Rs. 2426.94 crores.

Supply of Raw Materials to Handloom Weavers

3718. SHRI VIIAS MUTTEMWAR:
DR. ASIM BALA:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the handloom weavers are facing acute hardships due to increase in prices of yarn, dyes-chemicals and other raw materials;

(b) the details of memorandum submitted by the weavers to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that cotton yarn is not supplied to them in time at subsidised rate and they have to pay more price than the fixed price for cotton yarn due to shortage of hank yarn in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide raw materials to the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The recent increase in prices of raw material used in the handloom sector had rendered the handloom cloth costlier thereby affecting its marketability leading to temporary under employment among the weavers.

(b) A number of representations have been received from the associations of handloom cloth manufacturers and Members of Parliament demanding supply of yarn to handloom weavers at stable prices.

(c) While the problem has been one of its prices, there is no shortage in the availability of cotton hank yarn in the country.

(d) Government is constantly reviewing the price situation and has taken corrective steps. The State sector and cooperative sector spinning mills have been directed to augment the production of crucial counts of yarn and exercise restraint in prices. The National Textile Corporation (NTC) has been asked to readjust their production plan to augment production of hank yarn of 40s and below where the price rise has affected the handloom weavers the most. NHDC has also been advised to augment yarn supplies. The Chief Ministers of States have been requested to monitor the production of yarn by Cooperative/State sector mills, and to hold regular State Level reviews regarding supply, prices and distribution of hank yarn. The Chief Ministers have also been advised to impress upon the District Collectors to organise regular checking of the stocks and selling prices of yarn dealers in the districts, with a view to prevent hoarding of yarn.

De-Recognition of Political Parties

3719. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has recently withdrawn the recognition of several political parties;

(b) if so, the details of National and State level parties which have been de-recognised;

(c) the effect of de-recognition on their election symbol;

(d) whether these parties are entitled to get the same symbol during the coming elections;

(e) whether Kerala Congress (M) is a recognised State party; and

(f) if so, whether there is any other party with the name of Kerala Congress which now has been recognised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JSUTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Election Commission has withdrawn recognition of three National Parties, viz., (1) Indian Congress (Socialist-Sarat Chandra Sinha), (2) Janata Dal (Samajwadi) and (3) Lok Dal, and ten State parties, viz., (1) Democratic Party (Mizoram), (2) Kerala Congress, (3) Nagaland Peoples' Party (4) Patalli Makkal Katchi (Pondicherry), (5) Peasants and Workers Party of India (Maharashtra), (6) Peoples Party of Arunachal, (7) Plains Tribals Council of Assam (8) Pondicherry .Mannila Makkal Mannani (9) Revolutionary Socialist Party (Kerala) and (10) United Minorities Front, Assam. Indian Congress (Socialist-Sarat Chandra Sinha) however, has been found eligible for recognition as State Party in the States of Kerala and Manipur.

(c) and (d). A political party derecognised both as national and state party loses its reserved symbol. A political party derecognised as a national party but recognised as a State party is entitled to use its reserved symbol in the State or States in which it is so recognised.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No, Sir.

Letters Received from members of Parliament

3720. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: